

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of multiple sclerosis comprising administering directly to the muscle cells of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of naked DNA comprising a nucleic acid encoding beta-interferon which comprises a beta-interferon secretory signal ~~to muscle cells of a patient in need of such treatment~~, wherein said naked DNA is suitable for administration by injection.

Claims 25-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Previously Added). The method of claim 24, wherein said beta-interferon is human beta-interferon.

Claims 44-45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein said naked DNA further comprises a promoter element selected from the group consisting of viral promoters and muscle specific promoters.

Claim 47 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein said naked DNA further comprises at least one enhancer element.

Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein said naked DNA further comprises at least one sequence ensuring the polyadenylation of the transcribed RNA molecules.

Claim 49 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein said effective amount is from about 1  $\mu$ g to 1g.

Claim 50 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein said naked DNA is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 51 (New). The method of claim 50, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a solution.